



**Ninety-Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2001**  
**Corrected Committee Statement**  
**LB 244**

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**Hearing Date:** 01/23/01

**Committee On:** Transportation and Telecommunications

**Introducers:** (Bromm, Schimek)

**Title:** Adopt the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- X   Advanced to General File
  - Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Senators Jones, Baker, Dw. Pedersen, Byars, Hudkins, Brown and Bromm
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Robak

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**Proponents:**

Senator Curt Bromm  
Laura Kliewer  
Dan B. Lutz  
Richard Schmeling  
Jeff Poley

**Representing:**

23<sup>rd</sup> District  
The Council of State Governments  
Pro Rail Nebraska  
Pro Rail Nebraska  
Pro Rail Nebraska

**Opponents:**

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**

John L. Craig

**Representing:**

Nebraska Department of Roads

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

The bill adopts the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact. The Statement of Purpose of the compact: promote and implement improvements to intercity passenger rail service in the Midwest; coordinate interaction among the states; promote development and implementation of long-range plans for high speed rail service. Creates a commission to carry out the duties of the compact. Outlines membership of the commission, including from each state an appointee of the governor from the private sector, two legislators, and the Governor. Outlines the duties of the commissioners: to advocate for funding and authorization to make passenger rail improvements;

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seek long-term, interstate plan for high speed rail; cooperate with other agencies to integrate into national plans; adopt bylaws governing the commission; expend funds; report activities to the Governor and legislature; advocate, cooperate, educate, recommend; establish an office and hire a staff; enter into contracts; assess dues; conduct research; establish committees. The commission shall elect a chair and vice-chair from different states. The commission shall meet yearly and at other times determined by the commission. The commission shall apportion the financial responsibilities of the commission to the respective states, and may accept any gifts. States eligible are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The commission may vote to allow other states. States must ratify the compact and amendments thereto. A state may withdraw by repealing the statute with one year of notice, and be liable for financial obligations. Defaulting on a state's obligations can lead to suspension, then expulsion

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator Curt Bromm, Chairperson**